

REPORT

DATE: September 14, 2006

TO: Transportation and Communications Committee

FROM: Bob Huddy, Senior Transportation Planner, 213-236-1972, huddy@scag.ca.gov

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED STUDY OF A TUNNEL OPTION TO COMPLETE THE 710 GAP CLOSURE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL:



RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff recommends approval of the attached Resolution of Support for Continued Study of a Tunnel Option to Complete the 710 Gap Closure, and inclusion of the Tunnel as the option to be used for planning in the 2008 RTP, as the Tunnel option is subject to the appropriate and required environmental review.

SUMMARY:

In response to a request from the City of South Pasadena, seeking amendment of the 2004 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) to provide for a tunnel option to complete the 710 Gap Closure, between Valley Blvd. in the City of Los Angeles and California Blvd. in the City of Pasadena, staff has prepared a resolution (attached). The resolution notes that SCAG continues support for the planning efforts to determine the feasibility of the tunnel option which is subject to the appropriate and required environmental review, and resolves that the Regional Council directs the Executive Director and staff to consider the Tunnel option as the option to be considered for planning purposes in the 2008 Regional Transportation Plan.

BACKGROUND:

SCAG received a letter from the City of South Pasadena seeking amendment of the 2004 Regional Transportation Plan to provide for a tunnel option to complete the 710 Gap Closure, between Valley Blvd. in the City of Los Angeles and California Blvd. in the City of Pasadena. In the 2004 RTP the 710 Gap Closure is identified as 3 mixed flow lanes and 1 HOV lane in each direction from Valley Blvd. in the City of Los Angeles and California Blvd. in the City of Pasadena. Currently LACMTA is conducting a Tunnel Feasibility Study to determine if that option should be considered as a means of completing the 710 Gap Closure. The Draft Report for this study was released in June 2006. Staff has reviewed the request and prepared the attached resolution, which is based upon the conclusions of the 710 Tunnel Technical Feasibility Assessment that indicated a tunnel option is feasible, but subject to the appropriate and required environmental review.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No additional fiscal impact to SCAG.

DOC #118739

RESOLUTION NO. 06-478-2
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED STUDY OF TUNNEL OPTIONS
TO COMPLETE THE 710 GAP CLOSURE

WHEREAS, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) 2004 Regional Transportation Plan recognizes the need for and includes the Route 710 Gap Closure between Valley Blvd, in the City of Los Angeles and California Blvd. in the City of Pasadena; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) recently completed a study that determined that, subject to further analysis through an environmental process, a tunnel is a viable design option for the completion on the 710 Gap Closure; and

WHEREAS, SCAG participated in the study of the 710 Gap Closure tunnel options, along with Caltrans, the City of Alhambra, the City of La Canada-Flintridge, the City of Los Angeles, the City of Pasadena, the City of San Marino, and the City of South Pasadena; and

WHEREAS, all cities in the proposed Route 710 Extension corridor support a sound analysis of the full-bore tunnel option, as the only option capable of attaining consensus among the corridor cities, and state and regional transportation agencies; and

WHEREAS, SCAG encourages the use of innovative planning options capable of attaining consensus; and

WHEREAS, SCAG will continue to support and participate in the analysis of the tunnel alternatives as a means of completing the Gap Closure identified in the 2004 Regional Transportation Plan; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Regional Council recognizes the significant technical progress in the 710 Tunnel Feasibility Study and finds and declares that in developing the 2007 Regional Transportation Plan the full-bore tunnel option shall be used in planning the 710 Gap Closure, subject to the appropriate and required environmental review; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director shall present to the Regional Council for consideration such amendments and/or changes to the 2004 and/or subsequent Regional Transportation Plans as may be appropriate to effectuate this Resolution.

YVONNE BRAITHWAITE BURKE, President
Supervisor, County of Los Angeles

Mark Pisano, Secretary to Regional Council

Attest:

Legal Counsel

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